



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

of humor with great resources of expression. Such union, for instance, was the essential part of the genius of Charles Lamb; such a union is a marked trait to-day of such a writer as Mr. Howells. To say that Mr. Fields does not possess it is simply to say that he is not a genius. A strong sense of humor he undoubtedly has; but he has not the art in all cases of provoking by his reproduction of what strikes him as humorous the same pleasure that it originally gave him. The use of italics for emphasis, though (if we remember right) this device answered a good purpose in the hands of Lamb, does not remove this difficulty. It may be said, too, that as irony is confessedly a dangerous figure, it should be used sparingly, and is somewhat wasted in essays dealing with such classes of people as house-breakers. In fine, we should recommend Mr. Fields, in all friendliness, to leave humor to the humorists, and to confine himself to work in which he is better fitted to shine, — that of conveying information and amusement by means of reminiscent narrative.

---

13. — *American Addresses, with a Lecture on the Study of Biology.* By THOS. H. HUXLEY. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1877. pp. 164.

THE greater part of this little volume is occupied by Professor Huxley's New York lectures on Evolution, and this most important subject is treated by its learned advocate in a masterly manner.

The announcement that Professor Huxley would lecture on Evolution while in this country was received with no little satisfaction by the cultivated portion of the community. The evolutionists were content that their belief should be promulgated and defended by one who has so long and so ably labored for their cause; the interested but impartial public felt that no one could speak more intelligently on the subject than Professor Huxley; while on all sides the opponents of the development theory prepared for battle, and on the delivery of the lectures looked eagerly for some weak timber in the superstructure of the argument, a vigorous attack upon which might bring the whole to the ground. The confidence of the believers in evolution was not misplaced. In the clearest and most forcible language the lecturer announced his views, and supported them by a series of facts which amount to incontrovertible arguments. That his lectures convinced many, can hardly be doubted; that they did not convert many more, is in a great measure to be attributed to the fact that the entire significance and bearing of the proofs brought forward can only be fully appreciated by one who has some knowledge of comparative anatomy. Notwithstanding the necessity of this knowledge for the formation of an opinion, it is certainly true that the hos-

tility to evolution and its champions comes almost entirely from men without scientific training, whose knowledge of the subject is at best but superficial, and not based on the examination and comparison of specimens.

The first of the lectures on Evolution discusses the three most generally received hypotheses respecting the history of Nature, and disposes of two of them, leaving only the hypothesis of Evolution ; the second treats of such evidence as is neutral or merely favorable to this hypothesis ; while the third is devoted to the consideration of what the lecturer terms the demonstrative evidence. This demonstrative evidence is found in the greatest perfection in the history of the horse, the most highly specialized of our domestic animals, whose development Professor Marsh has traced, without a break in the line, from the earliest Eocene to the present day. The story, however, is not new to the reading public, and needs no comment here.

The address delivered at Baltimore on the occasion of the opening of the John Hopkins University, while abounding in valuable thoughts, is of far less general interest than the other matter in the volume. The lecture on the Study of Biology, delivered at the South Kensington Museum, in December last, vies with those on Evolution in importance and value. Extremely useful from a practical point of view is what is said about collections in museums, and the employment of a few types for study in lieu of a great number of specimens carelessly brought together. This lecture deserves careful study by instructors in biology and curators of museums, as well as by every student.

While the visit of Professor Huxley to this country was in many ways of great importance to American science, in nothing was it more beneficial than in giving to Europe and to European works in science an actual knowledge of what material we have here, and of what we are doing. To read of specimens is one thing, to see and handle them quite another. Professor Huxley came to this country prepared to lecture on European material, but upon examining one of our best collections he abandoned forthwith his original intention, and drew his proofs almost entirely from American specimens. His graceful allusions to some of our most eminent scientific men, and the high terms in which he referred to the collection of North American vertebrates at New Haven, are very pleasing ; but the most satisfactory thing about his visit is that by his adoption of American material and American work, he fully established the great value of this branch of American science. He returned convinced that it is in this country rather than in Europe that the forms exist which are to aid us in solving some of the most important problems of the day.